



VENICE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME INFORMATION FOR PARTNERS

VENICE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME

The [British Council](#) is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language.

The [Venice Fellowships Programme](#) is a key part of the British Council's presence in Venice, supporting the exhibition programme as well as being a platform for the development of new creative careers and future leaders. The Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for emerging creatives to represent the UK on an international level whilst broadening their perspective, making connections and developing their creative practice.

The Fellowships Programme enables creative students and professionals to spend a month in Venice during the world's most important art and architecture biennials. As exhibition ambassadors at the British Pavilion, the Fellows enrich and activate our exhibition programme. They engage visiting members of the public and expand the impact of the show. Alongside this practical residency, Fellows have the opportunity to develop their own research or practical creative projects and use the Biennale as a platform for artistic and professional development. Through these contributions, Fellows elevate the Pavilion to an important reference point for universities and creative organisations around the world.

Our Programme Partners are central to the Fellowship Programme. We welcome applications from new and returning institutions and organisations.

Partner applications for the 2026 Fellowships will open in June 2025.

Please contact **Sophie Lucas, Venice Partnerships and Programme Manager**, at venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org to be added to the mailing list.

Thank you for your interest in the Venice Fellowships Programme.



'The Fellowships Programme was a hugely significant part of my personal and professional growth; creating a springboard into my career which I will always be thankful for. Being surrounded by the energy of the Venice Biennale inspired me to challenge myself by undertaking the opportunities that were presented during this period. Engaging with the British Council created a foundation to take a step forward and realise my potential in the art world. It is a truly a programme that allows you to get out what you put into it!'

Past Fellow

'The Venice Fellowship has allowed my creative world to expand. Collaborating with artists of many disciplines was an invaluable experience.'

Past Fellow



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'This was an incredible opportunity that helped me develop a network and better understand my practice.'

Past Fellow



Images credit: Youssef ElNahas

THE FELLOWSHIPS EXPERIENCE

Each Fellow will receive a Travel Grant of £3,300 (three thousand and three hundred British pounds).

The Fellowship has two major components:

1. Exhibition ambassador: Fellows will participate in a one-month group residency inside the British Pavilion: invigilating the exhibition spaces, engaging with the public, leading tours and acting as the face of the British Council and its exhibition commission.

Skills developed: cultural awareness & understanding, team-work & problem-solving, public speaking & adaptation, communicating with audiences & exhibition interpretation, personal confidence & resilience, foreign language, time-management & planning.

Requested time commitment for invigilation is 23h per week during the period of one month.

2. Research or creative project: Fellows will undertake fieldwork in Venice to inform their creative practice, research and/or academic interests. This fieldwork should be connected to the themes of the Biennale and/or the British Pavilion exhibition.

Skills developed: time-management & planning, personal confidence & resilience, flexibility & collaboration, creativity & problem-solving, collaboration & communication, project planning & management, testing ideas.

Previous Fellows' project examples can be found in the [2022](#) and [2023](#) Yearbooks.

PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Since its start in 2014, the Fellowships Programme has welcomed over 400+ UK-based participants, from which:

- 65% have gone on to work in the arts/creative/cultural sector.
- 35% pursued/remained in the academic or researcher sectors.

Through their training and experience in supporting the exhibition at the British Pavilion, Fellows learn techniques for enhancing a visitor's understanding and expanding their perspectives on the show.

The invigilation experience provides them with valuable work experience and confidence in contributing to a gallery setting.



Key Highlights of the 2022 Programme Evaluation Report

- 92% of Fellows believe their employability is enhanced after participating in the Programme.
- 92% believe they are more likely to get work opportunities that would not have been open to them without the Fellowship.
- 71% believe that they can secure greater remuneration in the short term when applying for jobs.
- The Exhibition Ambassador residency at the British Pavilion resulted in an extensive skills development for the Fellows, but most strongly in improving: “cultural awareness & understanding”, “communicating with audiences & exhibition interpretation”, “personal confidence & resilience”, “foreign language skill”, “team-work & problem-solving”, “time-management & planning”.
- The Fellowship has resulted in 75% of Fellows better prepared for designing future research; 75% of Fellows better prepared for professional/academic international collaborations; 71% better prepared for future creative practice; and 67% better prepared for personal international collaboration.

OPEN CALL FOR UK PROGRAMME PARTNERS

The British Council is looking for organisations and institutions to join the 2026 Venice Fellowships Programme as Programme Partners. The Open Call will open in June 2025.

The Partners are central to supporting emerging creatives and future talents, and we welcome both returning and new partners each year. Partners recruit and identify the best candidates from their organisations to participate in the one-month residency during La Biennale.

Each Partner contributes £2,300 per Fellow. This is matched by £1,000 from the British Council. The Fellow receives a total Travel Grant of £3,300.

Eligibility and Requirements

We ask that you ensure that your organisation meets the following criteria before applying to be a Programme Partner.

- Your HEI/organisation needs to be a UK-based (England, Wales, Scotland, NI) and registered Higher Education Institution or Creative (Arts, Craft, Design, Architecture) Organisation, Cultural/Creative Hub, Social Enterprise, Charity, or CIC.
- Your organisation will have a demonstrated commitment to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity, and fostering positive relations between people from different groups.
- Your organisation is required to measure and assess candidates in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
- You are committed to the social values and impact of the Fellowship and will encourage Fellows from your HEI/organisation to consider how best to apply those values when planning their own unique project and research.





ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

For Partners:

Partners are invited to join monthly online group calls and a shared Whatsapp group to build a community of practice over the Fellowship year.

The British Council extends an invitation to Programme Partners to join various launch events at the Pavilion during Pre-Opening week.

For Fellows:

There are additional opportunities for Fellows to attend cultural events and network with creative individuals during their month in Venice.

Subject to availability, these events may include:

- Private tours of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, led by the 2025 Guggenheim Interns
- Art Night Venezia, organized by Ca' Foscari University and the City of Venice
- Feast of the Redentore
- Private Exhibition Tour at Ocean Space
- Events at National Pavilions within the Biennale

Fellows are offered opportunities to lead public tours in the Pavilion.

PAST PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Thank you to our past Programme Partners who have supported the Fellowships so far.

Here are a few from recent years:



APPLY TO BE A PROGRAMME PARTNER

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